

**OTTAWA JEWISH**

**SPECIAL EDITION**  
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# **BULLETIN & REVIEW**

United Jewish Appeal  
of Ottawa

## **OPERATION EXODUS**



**IN THIS  
SPECIAL  
EDITION...**

- **THE RESCUE**
- **THE  
RESETTLEMENT**
- **THE LOCAL  
RESPONSE**

**“NEVER  
AGAIN IS  
NOW....”**

### **THE RESCUE OF THE SOVIET JEWS**

## Operation Exodus: An Historical Imperative



By Dr. Eli Rabin  
President, Jewish Community Council of Ottawa

In 1881 Alexander II was assassinated on the bank of the Catherine Canal in St. Petersburg. The murder of the Czar who had signed the edict freeing 60 million serfs set in motion a chain of events which would eventually propel Jews westward. The murder of the Czar at Easter re-kindled and stirred anti-Semitic passions in a country known for its minimal tolerance of the Jewish People.

The fears of Jews was well justified. The upheavals in Russia allowed officials to point the finger of suspicion at the perennial scapegoat. The Jews, out of necessity had to look for secure havens in new lands. In 1882 one group of Jews, the Bilum (beit Ya'acov Lechu Ve'Neilchah) emigrated to Israel. The Bilum were the first group of Zionist immigrants from Eastern Europe and Russia to free themselves from the traditional centers of hostility and oppression.

Others left for "America". Thousands of Jewish immigrants fled with the help of such organizations as HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, based in the United States. The United States welcomed the "tired, hungry and oppressed peoples of the world". The Canadian counterpart in later years became known as the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society.

With the advent of the Communist revolution and the approaching Second World War the Jews of Russia virtually became entombed. Their culture and religion were for all intents and purposes persona non grata. The Jews were to wither away and disappear. Despite the great difficulties Jews survived. By the 1960s the Jews of the Western countries began to exert pressures upon the leaders of the Soviet Union "to let their people go". Little by little Russian Jews were, once again, permitted to emigrate to the United States and Canada. The exit visas were always obtained under great duress and at great sacrifice.

Today we are witnessing the miracle of the 1990s. Jews of the Soviet Union are being permitted to emigrate to Israel. It is an event of great historic significance for the Jewish people and for Israel. Israel, the haven for Jews, has declared its intent to receive, integrate and absorb the new Russian Olim into the country. The costs are enormous. The numbers returning to the Land of Their Forefathers' outstrip all the estimates made last year. Over one million exit visas have been issued to Russian Jews. The Jews of the diaspora have pledged to join Israel in the monumental task of immigrant absorption.

The estimated cost for Canadian Jewry in this enterprise will be approximately \$117 million; this amounts to 1/30th the amount that the Jews of Germany were fined by Nazi Germany after Kristallnacht. (The amount of the fine was \$3.7 Billion dollars).

How fortunate we are to be able to participate in the rescue of our fellow man. In 1936 Chaim Weizmann spoke of 6 million Jews of Europe for whom the world was divided into two parts: places where they cannot live and places where they cannot enter. Today Israel is a place where Jews can live freely and enter freely. We have the means to ensure that for the Jews of Russia freedom becomes a reality.

All of us in this community are either children or grandchildren of immigrants. Many of our ancestors come from Eastern Europe and Russia. They were helped by people who had migrated before them. Now it is our turn to help another generation of immigrants. The Ottawa Jewish Community has always been generous in its commitments to the Jewish Community at large. Operation Exodus will bring hundreds of thousands of Russian Jews to Israel. We must fulfill our pledge to Israel and to its new Olim.

## The Challenge is Clear

By Roslyn Kimmel  
1991 Women's Division UJA Chair

Our annual UJA campaign funds two areas — firstly, our local community, and secondly, it assists in the socioeconomic development of Israel.

There is a tendency to take for granted the requirements of the local community. The social and educational complexes and the expertise of professionals who plan cultural programs that we proudly have in our community today, require funding to ensure their continued effect and influences on the future of Jews in this region.

The UJA dollars that we sent to Israel go to help our fellow Jews so that their lives may be somewhat easier while they bear the brunt of the tremendous responsibility that is being demanded of them in making Israel the crown jewel for Jews of the Diaspora.

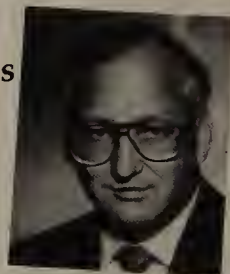
Our campaign this year has a third area of support. Fortunately, unlike in the past when emergency campaigns were the result of wars, the situation is different.

The Bible tells us about Moses pleading with Pharaoh to "Let my people go". Today a new Exodus is taking place. Millions of Jews from Russia are seeking liberation, not just from cultural and spiritual repression, but from physical harassment and open threats of pogroms. Jews are leaving Russia in heretofore unprecedented numbers. However, we do not know how long this window of opportunity will remain open.

Where are they going? The borders of Canada and the United States are

## Operation Exodus Receives Unanimous Support

By Lionel Shinder  
General Chairman  
UJA 1991



Few of us were fortunate enough to be part of the triumph of creating the State of Israel in 1948, and fewer yet were around to attempt to save European Jewry. Now we have the opportunity to save Jewish lives.

This campaign is history in the making; not only do we have to maintain our level for our own beneficiary agencies, but we must join worldwide Jewish commitment for Operation Exodus. I am proud to say that Ottawa was the first Canadian city to approve Operation Exodus. The campaign will be a two-line campaign; firstly, the U.J.A. regular campaign for our needs here and in Israel.

We must maintain and raise our regular U.J.A. dollars as it is important that these needs not be diminished as our beneficiary agencies require our support in order to continue improving the quality of Jewish life in the Ottawa community.

We also have quite a challenging goal to reach in Operation Exodus, as we join other communities across Canada in history in the making. Every U.J.A. dollar raised in Operation Exodus will be used only in Israel for rescue and resettlement. We must carry the message and appeal to everyone, as we are helping to save Jewish lives.

An all-out effort is required to help Israel absorb many thousands of newcomers. A staggering number of newcomers is expected.

On a recent mission led by John and Sunny Tavel, I had the experience of meeting Russian immigrants at the airport in Israel. Arriving in their homeland, and seeing these Jews in tears of joy, was an electrifying experience. People from all walks of life starting anew need our help, and donation dollars are essential. The time has come to affirm our commitment in order that freedom is achieved.

U.J.A. is accepting State of Israel Bonds for payment of your Operation Exodus pledge, however, the Bonds must be a minimum of two years old. We hope you will pledge the maximum possible for this campaign as we are saving Jewish lives and making possible their passage to freedom. Extraordinary dedication is required.

For decades we have demonstrated and demanded "Let Our People Go." Now there are more Jews coming out, more transit points in Eastern Europe, more cards to be covered in campaigns and more money needed. Let us do today what we were unable to do fifty years ago — save Jewish lives.

Not only do I ask you to give generously, I ask you to convey this important message to other organizations, as U.J.A. must carry the message until we are satisfied that every Jew in our community understands and participates in Operation Exodus.



closed. For the first time in modern history, there is a country that rolls out a welcome mat, a country that does not say "None is too many", a country that says "Too many is not enough". Israel sincerely welcomes Russian Jewry as it welcomes every Jew in the world.

There is a tremendous financial cost associated with the new wave of Russian Jewish immigration. This year, World Jewry will be asked to assist Israel in the financing of this dream — the smooth absorption of Russian Jews into the mainstream of Israeli life.

Many of us are rich with blessings beyond belief. Yes, our lives have their share of problems and tragedies. Yet, most of us are vastly blessed. We have financial capabilities which afford us the opportunity to become whatever we wish. We are fortunate enough to be living in an era where we can define our purpose and shape our destiny.

This year, we will ask our friends, our family, and acquaintances to link with us to not only share the experience, the satisfaction of building a better world for ourselves, our children, our grandchildren, but also for the new Russian Olim in Israel.

As our community links with other Canadian communities and Canadian Jewry links with World Jewry, I ask you to join me in strengthening Ottawa's link.

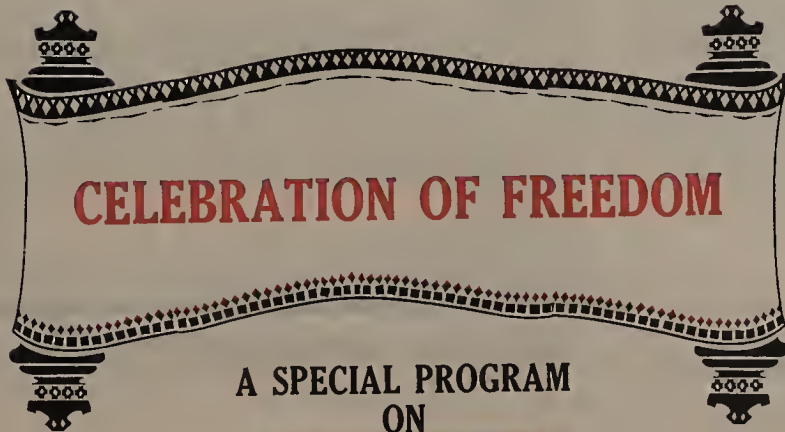


ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ!

Welcome Home

שלום

You and Your Family  
are  
invited  
to  
“...an evening you will  
...never forget...”



A SPECIAL PROGRAM  
ON

**OPERATION  
EXODUS**

*“...an evening which has electrified, moved, and inspired thousands  
throughout the world is now coming to Ottawa... Do not miss it!”...*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 7:00 P.M.**

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM  
151 CHAPEL STREET

FREE ADMISSION  
REFRESHMENTS

SUITABLE FOR MATURE TEENS  
& ADULTS

SPONSORED BY  
WOMEN'S DIVISION UJA  
IN CO-OPERATION  
WITH  
YOUNG BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL  
GROUP  
&



ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ!

Welcome Home

שלום

The Rescue

## BRUTAL SLAYING SPARKS FEAR AMONG JEWS

Fear is running high, especially among Soviet Jews living in the northern Caucasus, following the brutal murder of a Jewish businessman, and the torturing of his wife and son, in the city of Kislovodsk, by a gang that included several Moslems. The body of Zavia Izyayev was so badly mutilated that the police would not let the family see him — Jews living in the northern Caucasus are desperate to flee for Israel immediately.

## Anti-Semitism worst in Leningrad

According to data collected by the Jewish Research Centre, a privately funded bureau of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, 81% of Jews in Leningrad have experienced anti-Semitic incidents within the last six months, and a staggering 94% feared pogroms. Surprisingly, Moscow was ranked next among Soviet cities where Jews reported experiencing anti-Semitic incidents. Lowest ranked were Georgian Jews and those in other Central Asian republics. Jews in the Baltic states also experienced a relatively low incidence of anti-Semitism.

## NIS 2.5 billion budget plan receives go ahead!

With only minor changes, the Finance Ministry's economic plan, calling for a NIS (New Israel Shekel) 2.5 billion budget supplement for immigrant absorption, was approved by the Israeli cabinet on May 14, hereby raising the total 1990/91 state budget for immigration to NIS 3.9 billion.

According to the plan, construction of 70,000 new

housing units — more than three times the regular number — will start this current fiscal year. Bidding for construction projects and the provision of materials will be open to companies from abroad. Immediate absorption needs, housing and jobs, will be financed by a NIS 550 million cut in other items originally included in the 1990/91 state budget.

## THE NEW RUSSIAN VOCABULARY:

# GLASNOST PERESTROIKA POGROM

Lately, we've all become familiar with some new Russian words. Words that speak of freedom, democracy and change. But there is another Russian word, a very old Russian word that, unbelievably, is once more being heard by Jews inside the Soviet Union.

That word is Pogrom. Translation: Massacre, bloodbath, carnage, slaughter.

*The New York Times* reports: "A Fear of Pogroms Haunts Soviet Jews...more than 50 desecrations of Jewish cemeteries, some 1,000 anti-Semitic rallies, and hate leaflets in the thousands distributed everywhere."

From *The Philadelphia Inquirer*: "Every day, you can hear it and see posters on the walls saying 'no Jews'... nationalist groups want to rid the country of Jews."

The United Jewish Appeal has established an urgent campaign — Operation Exodus — whose sole purpose is to help liberate Soviet Jews and resettle them in their homeland, the Land of Israel.

We ask you to help them now. Before everyone learns a new Russian word.

**UJA  
OPERATION  
EXODUS  
SOVIET  
ALIYAH**

## IF WE DON'T TAKE CARE OF SOVIET JEWS NOW, SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT.

It isn't only other Jews who are concerned about the millions of Jews still left in Russia.

In fact, many nationalist groups are openly demonstrating how they'd like to deal with the problem.

Groups like Pamyat, who blame Jews for many of Russia's current shortages.

But their solution doesn't involve airlifts, Israeli absorption or social services.

It's more a matter of violence, death threats and annihilation.

When they talk about Pogrom, they're not talking history.

Recently, *The New York Times* reported... "more than 50 desecrations of Jewish cemeteries, some 1,000 anti-Semitic rallies, and vitriolic hate leaflets in the thousands have been distributed everywhere."

What's happening in Russia is frightening. We must do something about it now. Through Operation Exodus, United Jewish Appeal's urgent campaign, your donation will help pay for the transportation of hundreds of thousands of Jews out of the Soviet Union and resettle them in Israel, their homeland.

Please act now.

Before someone else does.

**OPERATION  
EXODUS**





# \* PAMYAT USES IT TO SEND DEATH THREATS TO SOVIET JEWS. YOU CAN USE IT TO SAVE THEM.

"The call in the night wakes Mikhail Rosenfeld in Moscow. When he picks up the telephone, a voice says, 'Kikes, it's your turn. You're at the top of the list.'"

This is the opening of Newsweek's cover story, titled "The Long Shadow: New Fears of

Anti-Semitism." (May 7, 1990).

During the 1930's, that shadow grew darker and darker. But we were powerless.

Today, we have Israel. Jews have a place to go. There is a historic "window of opportunity." A massive number of Jews are getting out of

the Soviet Union. Every night, hundreds of them land in Tel Aviv to start a new life in freedom.

Soon you will be called by a community volunteer to help rescue Soviet Jews. Funds are urgently needed.

Mark L. Berlin — Chairperson 1991 Super Sunday, Rae Goldstein, Sarah Swedler-Vice Chairpersons  
Lionel Shinder — Chairman 1991 United Jewish Appeal / Operation Exodus Campaigns of Ottawa



United Jewish Appeal  
of Ottawa

## OPERATION EXODUS

\* An ultranationalistic anti-Semitic organization based in the Soviet Union.

# IN 1939 WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO.



## IN 1990, WE DO!

The dangers of anti-Semitism are real again. In the Soviet Union, a major Jewish population lives in anxiety, seeking to escape threats of violence and victimization.

In the 1930's, Jews watched the gathering storm. But there was little

they could do. As a people, we were dependent, powerless.

Today, we have Israel, a sovereign Jewish state. Jews have a place to go. To start a new life in freedom.

There is a historic "window of opportunity." A massive number of

Jews are getting out of the Soviet Union. Every night, hundreds land at Ben Gurion Airport.

"Operation Exodus" is our way of taking part in this great rescue movement. This time, we can act. **Pledge your support today!**

United Jewish Appeal  
of Ottawa  
232-7306

# OPERATION EXODUS





## In this issue...

By Gerry Koffman, Executive Director  
Jewish Community Council of Ottawa

The Jewish Community Council/Vaad Ha'Ir is pleased to offer to you this Special Edition of the Bulletin devoted solely to Operation Exodus. This edition of the Bulletin has been put together to better inform our community of the overwhelming circumstances that envelop World Jewry as we welcome home hundreds of thousands of our fellow Jews.

We are not only witness to this historic moment in time, but we can be active participants in freeing fellow Jews from their bondage and give them renewed hope and freedom in Israel.

This edition of the Bulletin follows the path of the Soviet Jews and World Jewry united in its quest in the redemption of Russian Jewry. The first section deals with *The Rescue* — the graphic story of the rising tide and terror of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and how an increasingly large number of Russian Jews are seeking haven in Israel. *The Rescue* also describes the role and responsibility of World Jewry in this rescue and redemption.

The second section deals with the Resettlement — how

the tiny State of Israel is coping with this massive influx of fellow Jews. Not only do we describe governmental or bureaucratic concerns but we focus on the human side — the personal side of individuals and families.

Lastly we focus on the Local Response — As the first community in Canada to publicly endorse the concept of Operation Exodus, Ottawa Jewry has met the challenge head on. Community organizations and individuals, synagogues and families are providing time, energy, and yes, money to this noble and worthy cause.

If history has taught the Jewish people one lesson, it is that if we do not look after ourselves, if we do not vigorously defend our security and well being as Jews — no one else will. We are at a crossroads in our history. We have the opportunity to not only save a significant segment of our people, but to help them flourish as an important entity in a Jewish milieu. Let us not let this opportunity slip away. We must seize the moment.



*The Rescue*

## Poll finds Russian nationalism a threat to Jews

By Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut

Pamyat, the brazenly anti-Semitic organization which flourishes primarily in the Republic of Russia, has repeatedly been in the news. It threatened a May 5 pogrom which, though it fortunately did not come off, has helped to convince a million Soviet Jews that emigration is their only road to a meaningful future.

An article by Robert J. Brym, which appeared in a recent edition of the prestigious and always informative magazine *Soviet Jewish Affairs*, provides a fascinating sidelight on this state of affairs. He reports on various polls taken inside the Soviet Union which deal with Pamyat and try to establish how non-Jews view the spread of anti-Semitism in others as well as in themselves. Brym then proceeds to compare this to a parallel poll taken in the United States.

A telephone poll of 1,000 Moscow residents was conducted a year and a half ago under the auspices of the Institute of Sociology of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences which, Brym assures us, has standards comparable to the best pollsters in North America.

Muscovites were asked whether they thought Jews in the U.S.S.R. were discriminated against to a great degree, to some degree, or not at all. New York respondents were asked the same question about Jews in the United States.

Interestingly, New Yorkers admitted perceiving much more anti-Semitism than their Soviet counterparts. This cannot be simply explained by the fact that so many New Yorkers are Jewish and that Jews have a keener sensitivity for anti-Semitic tendencies than non-Jews. But when allowances were made for this, the percentages hardly changed.

In New York, 24 per cent said that Jews were not discriminated in the United States at all, while 62 per cent of Muscovites held a parallel opinion with regard to the U.S.S.R.

Some analysts believe that this startling difference may be traceable to the decades-long indoctrination of Soviets by their government which proclaimed steadfastly that all prejudice had been wiped out under Soviet rule. Added thereto may be the fact that some respondents who answered in this fashion

are themselves anti-Semites who believe that, rather than being discriminated against, Jews have too much power. But this latter argument, while in itself true, makes for a weak comparison, for the same reasoning may underlie American responses as well.

The first Soviet poll did not ask questions about Pamyat, but a half year later another poll did. This one asked whether respondents had heard of Pamyat and if so, how they felt about that organization.

Remarkably, 80 per cent of Muscovites had heard of Pamyat. To see this percentage in context it should be noted that only 58 per cent had heard about the Berlin Wall.

Which Muscovites are most sympathetic to Pamyat? The percentage is comparable to the hard-line, pro-Stalinist element who deny that any discrimination exists in the U.S.S.R. Further, Pamyat sympathizers are more likely to be relatively uneducated members of the working class. Surpris-

ingly, women have a more favorable attitude toward Pamyat than men. Also, Pamyat sympathizers see fewer faults in the Soviet system than do non-sympathizers and are generally opposed to reforms. The survey concludes that extremist Russian nationalism represents a serious threat to the Jews and also to President Mikhail Gorbachev.

What does all this tell us about anti-Semitism in both the U.S.S.R. and the United States — always taking into consideration that these polls were not nation-wide? This much seems incontrovertible: by and large the same elements in American and Soviet societies are susceptible to the anti-Semitic disease. They are right-wing nationalists, oppose innovation and reforms, which they associate with Jews. They also have a conspiratorial view of life which holds that someone must be to blame for the problems which beset society. And that someone, both here and there, is all too often the Jew.

### Translation from "Maariv" Israeli Daily, June 16, 1990 Crazed Hooligans in Lvov Tortured Elderly Jew to Death

Igor Brock, an elderly Jew, 72 years old, of the Ukrainian city Lvov, was murdered by three hooligans who went into his apartment. Brock and his wife, Minna, have made application for a visa to immigrate to Israel. Brock was severely tortured by the three, who tied him up and strangled him to death.

Minna, 72, was severely beaten in all parts of her body, sustaining fractures to her ribs and legs. The thugs presented themselves as policemen and one was dressed in uniform. As they got out, they yelled: "We'll kill all Jews!"

This horrible incident became known only two days ago, after Mrs. Brock started recovering and dared to contact her daughter by phone. Her daughter lives in Rishon LeZion, Israel. "Mother was crying as she told me about the nightmare she has gone through, and her fear that the thugs will be back to wipe her out, as she has nobody to turn to, and as the suspects are themselves policemen", said the daughter, Ella Tessler, 50 years old.

"My mother is suffering from serious diabetes. She sounded scared and desperate. In a weeping voice she asked me to have the Israeli authorities do all they can to bring her out as soon as possible to land safely in Israel."

Minna Brock is bed-ridden. She is in a cast from head to toe, and unable to flee to Moscow to seek help from the Israeli legation.

A similar incident of a brutal attack occurred in the city of Balz in Moldavia. Immigrants arriving in Israel reported that anti-Semitic thugs butchered a Jewish couple who had requested a visa to go to Israel. The couple left behind two orphans, aged 4 and 5.



### The Budapest Connection

Budapest, capital of Hungary, has become the main link on the way from Moscow to Tel-Aviv. In the absence of direct flights, Jews immigrating to Israel must go either through Budapest or Bucharest. The Budapest air terminal is busy with immigrants. Some are seen here on their way to the airport.

# Resettlement

## Welcome



Five-year old Vicky Filshinski from Kharkov among her new friends at the Day Care Centre in Rishon LeZion.



Leaving Ben-Gurion Airport for an absorption centre.



Larissa and Vladimir proudly examine their new Israeli citizenship.



A seasoned olah helping new arrivals fill out forms.



Tomorrow is already a better day.



# Home

Resettlement



Immigrant family of 25 people from Baku collect their luggage at Ben-Gurion airport.



citizenship papers.

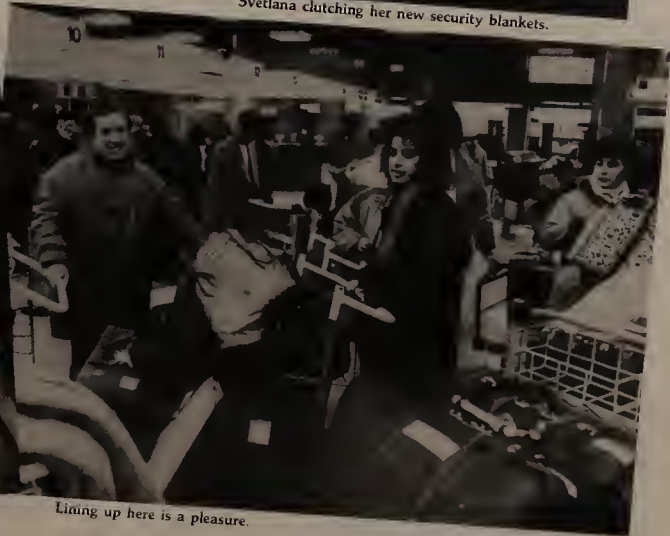
Ben-Gurion...at last!



Svetlana clutching her new security blankets.



Don't rush me, Daddy, there is so much to see.



Lining up here is a pleasure.

United Jewish Appeal  
of Ottawa

# OPERATION EXODUS

Jewish Agency Assembly News:

## ALIYAH IS ISRAEL'S OXYGEN

### "DO MORE THAN YOU CAN"

Israel's Finance Minister, Yitzhak Modai, addressing hundreds of overseas Jewish leaders attending the Annual Assembly of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem:

"I have been told that there are limits on the amount of money world Jewry can raise. You can only do what you can. But this time I must plead, even demand, for you to do more than you can."

### Sharon: "We Dare Not Lose This Historic Opportunity"

Speaking to the Board of Governors, Housing Minister Ariel Sharon issued a clear-cut statement that the new government would not settle immigrants in the territories in order not to endanger the Russian exodus. He also stressed that the time has come to stop arguing over authority and forsake all internal struggles. "This is not a question of prestige; it is a unique national campaign that is above any political considerations".

Sharon revealed that 7,000 homes will have to be built every month and that the new government approved the construction of an additional 45,000 units. He pointed out that during the years 1971 to 1974, 60,000 apartments were built per year and that this achievement can be repeated. Sharon also informed Assembly participants that 3,000 pre-fabricated houses have already been ordered and that a minimum of 40,000 will be needed to cover the gap until construction of the 45,000 permanent new units will be completed. He promised that young Israeli couples will be given the opportunity to purchase prefabs and enjoy the same terms and mortgages as new olim.

Sharon further spoke about the necessity of creating new industries and jobs and of the need to sell government corporations. According to the Jerusalem Post, Sharon has come to an agreement with Finance Minister Modai concerning the selling of government assets to pay for the massive building programme. Lastly, Sharon called for full cooperation of World Jewry in this enormous task of bringing Soviet Jewry home.



SCHOOL DAYS IN RISHON LEZION

Richon LeZion, a city in the centre of Israel, was among the first to welcome Soviet immigrants in the "direct absorption" plan. Hundreds of them have settled in Rishon in recent months — including this young girl, making friends with her new Israeli classmates.

[UJA photo by Robert A. Cumins]

### 20,000 IMMIGRANT CHILDREN TO STUDY DURING SUMMER

Unlike their Israeli fellow pupils, olim children will continue their studies throughout the summer. As of July 1, 15,000 olim youngsters between the ages of 5 to 18 will be studying Hebrew in special summer-classes. Apart from obviously improving the children's knowledge of the Hebrew language, the courses are designed to prepare them for the coming school year. In addition, 5,000 immigrant children between the ages of 3 to 5 will continue to attend kindergarten throughout the summer vacation, hereby enabling their parents to attend ulpan classes.

Simcha Dinitz, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, disclosed at last week's Jewish Agency Assembly in Jerusalem, that some 11,000 immigrants are expected to arrive in Israel in June. In July, 18,000 are expected. Dinitz also hinted that there was a marked increase in Aliyah from Ethiopia (immigration figures on Ethiopian Aliyah are still censored). Calling Aliyah "Israel's oxygen", he implored Assembly participants to spoil Arab efforts to spread the "big lie" (that immigrants settle in the territories), to fight their vicious attempts to "deprive Israel of its oxygen"! Since April 1, 1989, 65,000 Jews have immigrated to Israel, he said. Only 215 (2%) have settled in Judea and Samaria.

#### OPERATION EXODUS: WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

- \$250... to provide emergency cash for a Soviet family upon their arrival at Ben Gurion Airport in Israel
- \$500... to provide basic furnishings for a family of 3 Soviet immigrants upon their arrival in Israel
- \$750... to provide 6 months of day care subsidies for a Soviet family with 2 children in Israel
- \$1000... to provide special care and services for an elderly Soviet immigrant adapting to a new life in Israel
- \$1500... to provide housing for 2 Soviet immigrant students during their first academic year in Israel
- \$2000... to provide transportation for a husband and wife and their belongings from the Soviet Union to freedom in Israel
- \$3600... to provide special programs and medical rehabilitation for a disabled Soviet immigrant during his/her first year in Israel
- \$5000... to provide rental housing for a Soviet family of 3 during their first year in Israel
- \$7500... to provide transportation to freedom in Israel and direct cash assistance for one immigrant during his/her first year in Israel
- \$12,800... to provide the necessities of life for a Soviet family of 3 during their first year in Israel
- \$18,000... to provide transportation, freight of belongings and the necessities of life including rent, basic furnishings, education, and day care for a family of 3 from the Soviet Union during their first year in Israel

Every dollar raised through Operation Exodus will be sent directly to Israel and used *only* for the rescue and resettlement of Soviet Jews.

## ALIYAH RADIO

Among the changes brought about by Glasnost are open airwaves. Until 1988, the Soviet authorities jammed radio broadcasts from abroad into the Soviet Union. "Kol Yisrael", Israel state radio, managed to get through with its Russian programming, but with frequent disturbances and interruptions.

"Now," says Aharon Ormian, director of Israel radio's Russian Department, "the airwaves are open and we are free to broadcast all our programs. Many are now focused on giving information about absorption, jobs, security and the general situation in Israel. Soviet Jews want to hear about Israel, which un-

til recently was virtually unknown to them, or could only be learned about secretly. They want to know what to expect from the country which they may soon call home."

Ira Yachud is a new immigrant who recently arrived from Leningrad. In the Soviet Union, he says, radio broadcasts from Jerusalem now fulfill a crucial function.

"For the very first time people are receiving information about Israel and Aliyah," says Ira. "Jews can now find out where the best places to settle in Israel are, according to their profession, how much money they will get when they arrive, what the conditions of being a new immigrant are, the size of the mortgage they can expect and where they should go for help in different situations. This kind of information was unavailable two years ago."

"These programmes give people encouragement", adds Yachud. "We come to Israel with no idea of how the system works. There is so much that is new for us".

Programming has changed to meet listeners' needs. Six months ago, Hebrew lessons were added, and says Director Ormian, "We are free to give details on where people can go to learn Hebrew in the Soviet Union, where to buy cassettes of Israeli songs and listings of seminars, conferences and study groups focusing on Hebrew and Israel". Following listeners' requests, pop-music from Israel has been added as well as interviewing immigrants about their absorption in Israel.

Sums up Ormian, "We are doing everything we can in these historic times. There is no place in the Soviet Union where the Voice of Israel is not heard".



# Medical retraining

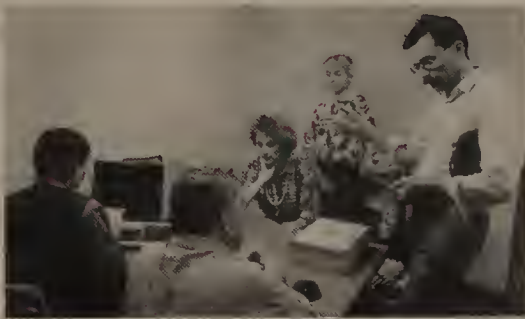
JAFI helps retrain immigrant doctors

The new immigrants from the Soviet Union must cope with inevitable problems that result from their reestablishment in Israel. They need housing and employment, both of which are currently in short supply.

More than 50 percent of the expected arrivals, according to a recent survey conducted by the Jewish Agency's Department for Immigration and Absorption, are highly skilled professionals who will undoubtedly be a welcome contribution to Israel's high-tech society. But as is often the case in many countries, such professions as medicine are a matter for the licensing authorities in the host countries. The same is certainly true for Israel.

Differences in medical practices, language comprehension and other considerations make it necessary for the new immigrant doctor from the Soviet Union to undergo an exam to practice medicine in Israel. This requisite led the Jewish Agency to consider ways and means of meeting the needs of immigrant doctors while serving other vital goals. Among the latter has been the precedence that Jewish Agency has given to the settlement of the Galilee, Israel's underpopulated northern region.

Even before the current wave of olim from the Soviet began to pick up momentum, the Department of Aliyah and Absorption of the Jewish Agency was engaged in directing professionals from South America countries to cities and town in the Galilee. Among these was the first group of doctors from Argentina recruited a year ago by the Department for the hospital in Safed. These doctors were influenced to make aliyah as a result of the job



Victor Kurakin, a surgeon (right) and his wife Helena with their daughter Diana, talk with Absorption ministry officials at Ben Gurion Airport.

opportunities promised them in Safed. In the process, the Galilee received a population boost, and one of its major hospitals benefited from a reinforcement of its medical staff.

The Jewish Agency chose to encourage the establishment of a program in the Galilee for immigrant physicians that would serve the twofold purpose of preparing the doctors to pass the medical licensing exams and acquire the necessary working knowledge of Hebrew in ulpan conditions. In the process, it was hoped that the presence of such a program in the Galilee would attract other immigrant doctors to the region where their presence would enhance medical services in the north and improve the overall quality

of life necessary to attract new settlers.

Forty doctors, all from the Soviet Union, have currently been accepted to the Galilee program for immigrant physicians, including 10 who had been among Soviet Jews waiting in Ladispoli, Italy, for visas to the United States. The latter were attracted to Israel by the promise of employment opportunities among the five hospitals in the region where it has been estimated that as many as 900 staff positions will become available over a five-year period.

Located in the Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed, the program consists of six month courses, where the newly arrived immigrant doctors devote a half day to their study of Israeli

Resettlement

medical practices and the other half day studying Hebrew with their families at ulpan.

The Galilee program for Russian immigrant physicians is an excellent example of cooperation coordinated by the Jewish Agency with the various bodies working together for the benefit of new immigrants. The Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed provides the classroom facilities, meals, equipment, audio-visual aids, administrative services, texts, library. The Ministry of Absorption provides a monthly allowance, ulpan and a variety of social and cultural activities. The Safed municipality provides day care facilities for the toddlers. The Jewish Agency promotes and coordinates the program, furnishing hostel facilities and basic household supplies. JAFI maintains a high level of flexibility and has stepped in numerous times to assist in areas beyond the original plan. And more than 30 Russian-speaking doctors, recruited by the Safed hospital from all over Israel, teach their immigrant colleagues on a volunteer basis.

## Aliyah begins in a tiny Moscow office

# ...Israel finally welcomes a lost generation home

By Robert Leiter

Philadelphia Jewish Exponent  
MOSCOW — At the offices of the Va'ad, the umbrella organization for Jewish groups in the Soviet Union, the tempo is often frenetic.

The "offices" are really only two small rooms that the Va'ad rents in the genteelly shabby Shalom Theater on Warsaw Street, a good 20-minute cab ride from Red Square. If more than five people gather in either of the rooms — which is generally the case at all hours of the day — everyone has to shift in unison when someone wants to enter or leave.

Sasha Shmukler, a member of the Va'ad presidium, and Mikhail Chlenov, one of the organization's three presidents, are always busy — greeting people, answering questions about immigration, listening to complaints about anti-Semitic incidents.

So it often falls to quiet, self-effacing Boris Bleckhman to answer the phone, which tends to ring every few minutes throughout the day.

Bleckhman, 30, is perhaps typical of those Jews who have decided to leave the Soviet Union for Israel. A designer of machinery for chemical fibres, he left his job, as so many other Jews have been forced to do, when he decided to go to Israel. Now he works as a computer operator at the Va'ad, in addition to answering the phone.

"I haven't lost anything in terms of money," he explained. "The main thing in all this for me is not to lose my professional quality. For six months, it will not hurt me. And

maybe in Israel, I will be a designer in some other way."

Bleckhman hopes to be in Israel in six to eight months. He plans to leave with his wife, a teacher, and their two young daughters, as well as his parents and his in-laws.

"It will be good if we leave at the end of the year," he said. "Israel has said yes, we may come. But the Soviet Union has not said yes. The problem is now tickets and the things we want to take with us. Our parents, who are older, want to make sure they have things. It is psychologically important for them. It's not as important for us."

Bleckhman said he chose to leave because he wanted to "reach something and to give something to my children." He also said another motivating factor was that his friends have left and "it has become empty for me around here."

He has been alerted by these same friends, now residing in Israel, that life is hard but there is "a future."

"They know it takes five years to get on your feet," he said. "If you want, you will be. They are optimistic about their future."

Spurring the exodus of Soviet Jews is the growth of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union during the last two years, an issue that concerns Bleckhman and many of his Jewish compatriots.

"Anti-Semitism was always state policy," he said. "Now it's become public as well. Anti-Semitic groups send material to people and call on the telephone."

*"They had signs telling all the Jews to get out of the Soviet Union...at the same time there was a demonstration of Palestinians warning us not to go to Israel. It would have been funny if it weren't so sad."*

During the historic Congress of Jewish Organizations and Communities of the U.S.S.R. held in Moscow in December, when the Va'ad was created, Bleckhman said he and other delegates could see from the windows of the conference hall an all-day demonstration by the nationalistic group Pamyat.

"They had signs telling all the Jews to get out of the Soviet Union," he said. "At the same time, there was a demonstration of Palestinians warning us not to go to Israel. It would have been funny if it weren't so sad."

"I myself am afraid for my children," he continued. "I don't want my children to see things like this."

Bleckhman said he is always kept busy at the Va'ad these days. "More and more people are coming to the Va'ad because it is the centre, the place where people learn about emigration," he said. "And people are not afraid to come here. They phone from several

towns. They ask what the situation is for the Jews."

In Bleckhman's opinion, the majority of Jews in the Soviet Union want to leave. "Five hundred thousand visa forms have now been distributed by the government," he said.

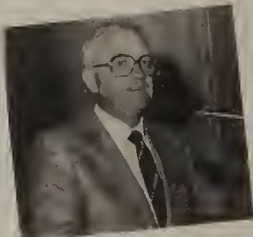
He and his family plan to study Hebrew while they wait before emigrating. "The work of teaching Hebrew is just the beginning," he said. "There are many private Hebrew teachers now. When I myself rang one of them up, the man said he will teach me and my family. Israeli groups also come here. There are some books for self-teaching. And not only in Moscow, in other towns as well. Now, it's not so bad. If you want to teach Hebrew, you can."

Like many of the Jews in Moscow, Bleckhman will not be deflected from his goal of making aliyah.

"If I am forced to stay," he said, "I will go into refusal."

Local response

## Operation Exodus campaign launched with pacesetting results



"We are no longer the cowering inarticulate community we were a generation ago. We now have the political vehicles to respond to emergencies. Now we need the financial capability to do so". So said Herb Nadolny, co-chairman of the Top Donors function, which was held June 27th. At this information and fundraising event, over \$1 million dollars was raised. This function officially launched the 1991 regular UJA Campaign as well as Operation Exodus. The Operation Exodus funds are earmarked exclusively for the rescue and resettlement of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Those in attendance heard moving testimony from two of the teenage members of the March of The Living journey to Poland and Israel. Sherry Miller and Lee Greenberg related many of their experiences while travelling through Auschwitz, Majdanek and other places of horror. All were moved as they were told of the relief felt upon touching down in Israel. They came from a place of death to Israel, with her beauty, vibrancy and the promise of a bright future for Jews.

The keynote speaker was former refusenik and founder of "Jewish Women against Refusal", Judith Lurie. Lurie, a vibrant determined individual, told of the fears and hardship of Jews in the Soviet Union. Jews are still being persecuted, injured and even murdered she related. Many Jews are still refused a chance to leave. It took her family twenty-five years to gain permission to leave. This contrasts with life in Israel as a new beginning, she conveyed to the guests.

Those who can leave, are flown to and resettled in Israel. Hundreds of thousands, possibly a 1,000,000 are expected to arrive in the next 2-5 years. The UJA is a partner in this rescue and resettlement.

Every plane ticket costs \$1500. US dollars, and is paid for by World Jewry through the UJA. "These tickets of life" are only the beginning. The newly arrived immigrants receive about \$11,000. US dollars in care and maintenance for a family of three.

Stephen Victor, immediate past president, of the Vaad, reminded us, in a moving presentation, that we couldn't save our Jewish Family from almost total annihilation 50 years ago, but today, we can, and we must.

Lionel Shinder, chairman of the 1991 UJA and Operation Exodus Campaign, after recounting his recent trip to Poland and Israel, said that he felt lucky and protected living in Ottawa. Then, two weeks after arriving home, our cemetery was desecrated, and he was even more convinced that all Jews are responsible for each other.

Dr. Eli Rabin, president of the Vaad, reminded those present that the Ottawa Jewish Community was the first community in Canada to give support to Operation Exodus. He said that we will all do our part to save our brethren in the Soviet Union. There could be no other choice!

The United Jewish Appeal Campaign/Operation Exodus has begun. When contacted, please seize this historic moment and do all that you can to ensure Jewish self destiny.





## Simcha at Ben-Gurion

## We danced on the tarmac at dawn

SUNDAY, APRIL 29TH, 1990 — YOM HAZIKARON

By Sunny Tavel

BOKER TOV... to a very sleepy mission. Our day starts at 3 a.m. when we board our bus with our trusty driver Moshe at the wheel to take us to Ben Gurion Airport to meet an El Al plane from Budapest bringing three hundred Soviet Olim from Russia to Israel.

After just three hours of sleep and with the sounds of the sirens of the Yom Hazikaron Ceremony at the Wailing Wall just hours before still ringing in our heads, we set out to meet three hundred — soon to be — new citizens.

We nod off and soon arrive at the airport where we gather with the already familiar faces of the National Mission and the President's Mission from Montreal. There is a dias with Israeli flags overhead and three hundred chairs lined up in front of it. We see El Al planes on the tarmac around us. Yerushalaim Shel Zahav and the like are playing from loudspeakers and as only the Israelis would do — we are handed chocolates and roses to give to the Olim when they arrive. We mix and mingle but we are a quiet group. The anticipation is electric as we wait. Finally we see a plane approaching and yes it is the very plane that we are waiting for. As the doors open and the Soviet Jews start down the ramp we hear shouts of "Shalom" from both sides. We wave to each other. We hug, we touch, we cry, we smile. We are joyous at their arrival. There are Bubbles and Zaides with packs under their arms. There are young mothers with their young children. There are young men and teenagers. One elderly man stops on the stairs and waves without stopping until the crowd pushes him on and then he stops ten stairs later and resumes his waving as though he recognizes us somehow — the recognition is that of excitement at Israel being his new home and country and all the people in it being his mishpocha. A young man follows behind him holding on to his little dog. Another elderly man follows standing very tall and erect. He is covered in medals from one shoulder to the other. His posture belies his years. One of our group spoke to him in Yiddish and he said that this was such an important day for him — he had come home. There was a brief welcoming ceremony. On the dias was a gentleman from France who had paid for this El Al flight to go empty from Tel Aviv to Budapest and return with these new Olim. The cost was

\$250,000.00. One of the Olim came up to speak. He told us that this was his birthday and the start of a whole new life... We sang Ha Tikvah. Most of the group of new Olim did not know the words and most of us could not finish singing ourselves. The recording took over accompanied by silent tears.

Having just arrived from Poland days earlier where we had participated in the "March of the Living" from Auschwitz to Berkenau, I could not help but think of the train that passed under the very bridge that we were crossing. The train travelled the same tracks used by the Germans to transport our people to their final destination. And here we were meeting our Soviet brothers and sisters in the Operation Exodus, if we had been here in 1939 and had been asked to help, we surely would have done so. Poland took the abstract out of history for us and showed us the reality of the very rich Jewish heritage which we lost. Here in Israel and in the Diaspora we are saving lives with flights such as this which arrive daily. The new Olim went from the reception directly into the airport where they had to decide whether to opt for direct absorption i.e. to accept an allowance from the Israeli government and go it alone OR to opt to go directly to an absorption centre. Their anticipation and excitement must only have been matched by their anxiety of having left all that was familiar and having come to their new home not knowing what to expect. They were truly met with open arms and with the knowledge that their days of persecution were over. The ramifications of Israel's commitment to settle these people are enormous. Our job is to help or our values as Jews are false.

While we stood on the tarmac the realization that there but for a twist of fate or an accident in time — it could have been any one of us coming down those stairs. We will never forget the sight or the emotions it stirred in us.

After being addressed by Yitzhak Shamir at the Convention Centre in Jerusalem we proceeded to Mount Herzl for the Remembrance Day Service. Thousands of people came to the cemetery. There amongst the huge pines were the graves of the fallen. Flowers on every stone. Hardly a grave without a family. Young people and old openly weeping over their lost loved ones. Here in Israel everyone is

touched with either the loss of a family member, a friend, a neighbour or a loved one.

The Olim coming to Israel will never replace those who died but they are adding a new dimension and a new vitality at a time when Israel needs them. Yes, even with all of the problems, these people coming in such numbers will change the face of Israel and add a new strength.

Later in the day we change and go to the lobby of the Sheraton for a pre-Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration of our own. We danced through the lobby. We were not only ready but in need of a celebration having left Poland behind us and having just closed the doors on Yom Hazikaron. We took to the streets of Jerusalem where we bopped everyone in sight with the traditional plastic hammers. Ben Yehuda Street was wild with people, all armed with hammers, supposedly invisible spray paint and string from aerosol tins. We made our way back to the Sheraton where at 10 p.m. we were taken to the Hilton Hotel for a Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration given by Keren Hayesod.

Well, we unanimously agreed that never had we ever been to such a party. None of our collective Bar or Bat Mitzvahs or weddings held a candle to this.

We danced until the very end. We danced with new Soviet Olim, Ethiopian Olim, Israelis and ourselves. This day was a marathon day for us and we

Local response

experienced the height of joyousness. Should that sound sappy, shamltzy or dramatic — it isn't. Today was the antithesis of any day we had spent in Poland where we were literally stunned many times by what we saw and what we felt. But to have seen with our own eyes everything that we did see today and to have the knowledge that we had contributed to Operation Exodus and that we were somehow involved with these people's lives and just being with them in a celebration was exciting, uplifting and gratifying.

Today was the unequivocal highlight of our mission. How lucky we are to be living in this time where the sun is shining down on Israel. Even with the problems, and sometimes because of them, we are truly blessed.

Lila Tov — Sunny

## Local Organization supports Operation Exodus

In a demonstration of their commitment and support of Operation Exodus, Parliament Lodge, B'nai Brith has presented a cheque in the amount of \$5,000 to the United Jewish Appeal of Ottawa. Dr. Eli Rabin, President of the Vaad, and Lionel Shinder, Chairman of the 1991 UJA Campaign, lauded Phil Rimer, President of Parliament Lodge and its members for demonstrating leadership in these times of challenge for World Jewry in the rescue, resettlement, and redemption of our brethren in the Soviet Union to Israel. It is hoped that B'nai Brith Parliament Lodge's action will serve as an example to other communal organizations in supporting Operation Exodus.

Yasher Koach to the membership of B'nai Brith Parliament Lodge!

## Our Future journeys to the Past

Recently 20 Ottawa teenagers representing the future of our community, under the guidance of Marlene Cherun and Neil Silvert, journeyed to our past by travelling to Poland. The youngsters joined a world-wide group of 4,000 teenagers on The March of the Living. They experienced some of the most distressing times of their lives, during their eight days in Poland.

The group travelled to the former death camps of Auschwitz, Birkenau, Majdanek, Treblinka and Plaszow.

The actual March of the Living took place on Yom Hashoa, when participants marched the three kilometers from Auschwitz to Birkenau where millions of Jews were murdered in Nazi-run gas chambers. This time, however, when the teens marched, it was the March of the Living and not what was formerly the March of Death.

These kids not only witnessed what remains of the past but were quite shaken by the current anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe. They gained a sense of the miracle of Operation Exodus which will rescue Jews out of Russia.

After travelling through Poland they went with the group to Israel where they enjoyed the splendor and vibrance of Israel. Yom Ha'Atzmaut was spent in Jerusalem and each of the people traumatized by their experiences in Poland were relieved to be in Eretz Yisrael.

Since returning home these kids have become more involved in our Jewish community. If you would like to hear about their experiences please call the U.J.A. office and they will arrange for speakers to visit with your group.



Some of the members of the Ottawa contingent of the March of the Living with Mayor Yossi Goldberg and Mrs. Galia Goldberg at the Hy Hochberg Centre in Metulla.

## Local Response

### Be Sure to Attend 'Celebration of Freedom'

Sunday, September 16

In the last half of 1989 and throughout 1990, the world has witnessed the collapse of a reign of terror which seemed for a long while invincible.

After 72 years of Communism, the walls came tumbling down, first in Poland, soon followed by the events in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and Rumania. As the Iron Curtain lifted, we became witnesses to the litany of abuses that took place over the course of many years by the repressive regimes.

The Jews did more, though, than watch the events with curiosity. Both in the Diaspora and Israel, we rejoiced in the knowledge that millions of Soviet and Eastern European Jews heretofore trapped by the system and deprived of their culture, religion and heritage, could now climb over the tumbling walls and join the rest of us in the free world.

As we celebrate the miracle of their redemption, as we greet thousands arriving monthly in Israel, we must remain aware of the fact that the offer to leave the Soviet Union, may be reversed by a single capricious and arbitrary decision of the Soviet authorities.

On September 16, 1990 at 7:00 p.m. in Congregation Beth Shalom, 151 Chapel Street, the Ottawa Jewish Community will gather to learn about Operation Exodus, to hear speakers we will never forget, to be witness to a program, which has travelled the world over and arrives in Ottawa to let us fully participate and understand the significance of the opportunity the Operation Exodus represents for us, for our children, for our strength and survival in Israel and throughout the world.

This program is sponsored by Women's Division U.J.A. and the Young Business & Professional Group and the Young Leadership Development Group.

Join us.

## Make September 9 a truly Super Sunday!

By Mark Berlin,  
Chair

As this year's Super Sunday Chairperson, I am really impressed and grateful for the manner in which all organizations affiliated with the Ottawa Jewish Community have already responded to our call to assist in this year's Super Sunday, which is dedicated to the historic rescue of Soviet Jews and their resettlement in Israel. Given this unprecedented Soviet Jewry emigration, the following organizations have agreed to lend their efforts during Super Sunday: Beth Shalom Congregation, J.S.S.A., Peace Now, Temple Israel, Na'Amat Women, Young Israel Synagogue, Women's Division U.J.A., Vaad Ha'Ir.

This year's Super Sunday is unique in other respects as well. Unlike past years, Super Sunday, September 9th, 1990 is the official kickoff event to the 1990-1991 UJA/Operation Exodus Campaign. This year we are not simply calling those individuals who for whatever reason, did not get called until the end of the Campaign. Our thought this year was to review all 1989 pledges and identify people who we believe we can count upon to lend generous support to the regular U.J.A. Campaign, as well as Operation Exodus.

Funds are urgently needed to respond not only to the rescue movement but for the State of Israel's overwhelming needs in many areas. Additional funds to the regular U.J.A. Campaign go towards the continued growth of our community in Ottawa.

I would like to note the tremendous contribution of Rae Goldstein and Sarah Swedler, Associate Super Sunday chairpersons, who have responded in outstanding fashion to all facets of the organization of this year's event.

I would like to acknowledge the on-



Super Sunday Chair Mark Berlin ready for the task.

going support and assistance of Pauline Parkowski, Director of United Jewish Appeal Associate Campaign Director whose campaign experience has made the planning for this Super Sunday a most easy task.

If you are called on Super Sunday by one of the volunteers, please give generously — you can save life in Israel; you are helping to rescue our Soviet brothers and sisters; and you are adding to the quality of Jewish life in Ottawa. These are our responsibilities and duties — more than ever, the time to give is now.

**SUPER SUNDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 9, 1990**  
by responding generously  
you can make a difference.

## PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN



Women's Division Cabinet 1991 UJA Campaign



# People Who Make It Happen

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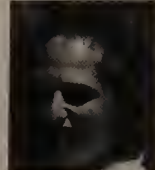
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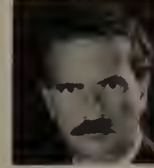
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